THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 89

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: Melissa L. Gaskins

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA:
Crafts/Ceramics

PRESENT POSITION Commencing in the Fall of 1989 I have been accepted to participate in a student/residency program under William Daley at the University of the Arts, College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, PA.

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

Bachlor of Arts/Art Education (K-12), Kent State University
Bachlor of Fine Arts - Crafts/Ceramics
Summer Studies in Italy - Concentration on Italian Renaissance
Mexican Exchange Program - Concentration on primitive art (Myan and Aztec).
Kent State University School of Art scholarship - Ceramics
KSU Blossom Program Scholarship - Field, papermaking
KSU Blossom Program Scholarship - Field, ceramics

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

Not Applicable

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Various private collections throughout Eastern United States

AWARDS:

Not Applicable

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

Philosophy: Art is a means of communicating or sharing one's experiences with others. Art also has the ability to communicate qualities of experience that cannot be put into words. I believe the subject matter of a composition will grow out of the artist's experiences, both real and vicarious. To deepen and quicken the pleasure in seeing is an important function of art. Beauty, pleasing proportions, and harmonious relationships between the forms and the colors are basic to the structure of art.

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Spike I - Textures, shapes and contrasts are very important to me. I enjoy the challenge of pushing myself and my clay to what could be considered the danger zone by attempting to defy the law of gravity to achieve my basic shape. Texture is created by various tools and found objects to develope a variety of surfaces. Color is extremely important to me and I am always experimenting with glazes, slips, oxidation and reduction to formulate additional depth and surface design.